

QUESTION: What can you tell us of an alliance or a pact between Bosch's Dominican Revolutionary Party (PRD) and the Communists?

ANSWER: This is a very complex subject. Obviously, the Bosch forces and the Communists have been in a de facto alliance since the beginning of the insurrection. However, the question of whether there was a formal alliance or a pact agreed on before the insurrection began is one on which there is conflicting evidence.

Last January, Bosch's PRD did sign a formal pact with the extremist faction of the Revolutionary Social Christian Party (PRSC) -- the Pact of Rio Piedras, signed in Puerto Rico. The extremist wing of the Social Christians is almost as far left as the communist parties. This pact, as it was published, did not include any other group but the two parties mentioned. In the Pact the two parties agreed to form a united front to secure the reestablishment of a constitutional government in the Dominican Republic. However, we do know [redacted]

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During the discussions with the PRSC leaders in Puerto Rico Bosch [redacted] reported [redacted] he would have no objection if members of the APCJ joined the PRD or if the party supported the PRD. He is said to have stated that it would have to be a unilateral arrangement and the PRD would come to no formal understanding with the APCJ. Whether or not there was at any time an informal agreement between the signatories of the Pact of Rio Piedras and the APCJ is still a matter of contention. Javier Castillo stated in May 1965 that the APCJ was a member of the Pact. This may or may not be true, but we have no further supporting evidence.

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There is no hard evidence that the other Communist parties -- The Dominican Popular Socialist Party (PSPD) and the Dominican Popular Movement (MPD) -- were brought into the pact at any time. We do know, however, that both these Communist groups saw, for their own purposes, a good opportunity to exploit the political situation in the Dominican Republic by allying themselves with the non-Communist revolutionaries -- the PRD and the PRSC.

Regardless of the existence of a formal pact, the Dominican political community is such that plots and counter-plots are pretty well known to most of the principal political leaders. Moreover, given Bosch's numerous contacts on the left there were plenty of means available to him to keep channels open to any or all of the communist parties if he so wished.

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